

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 364

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (GLIGOROV, KIRO) YO US
SUBJECT: GLIGOROV VISIT: POSTPONEMENT

REF: BELGRADE 318

1. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, I HAD ASKED TO SEE GLIGOROV SOME TIME NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS HIS PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO THE US. IN RESPONSE HE ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM TODAY (JANUARY 18), HE OPENED BY NOTING THE PROXIMITY IN TIME OF HIS OWN VISIT AND THAT OF PRESIDENT TITO. HE SAID THAT CONSIDERABLE TIME AND PREPARATION ARE NEEDED BY BOTH SIDES FOR EACH VISIT. BECAUSE THE TWO VISITS ARE SO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, MUCH OF THIS EFFORT WOULD BE DUPLICATIVE. HE PROPOSED THEREFORE THAT HIS PARLIAMENTARY VISIT BE POSTPONED UNTIL LATER IN THE YEAR. GLIGOROV EXPRESSED HIS APOLOGIES AND APPRECIATION TO ALL THOSE ENGAGED IN THE PREPARATIONS, EMPHASIZING A SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO SPEAKER O'NEAL.

2. WE BOTH AGREED THAT VISIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GLIGOROV SUGGESTED ANY TIME FROM JULY ONWARD. I POINTED OUT THAT SINCE
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1978 IS AN ELECTION YEAR IN THE U.S., THE AUTUMN-TIME FRAME WOULD PERHAPS BE DIFFICULT. HE SAID HE WOULD BE AMENABLE TO ANY SUGGESTIONS.

3. GLIGOROV REPEATED HIS REASONS FOR PROPOSING THE POSTPONEMENT THREE TIMES AND WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SAY THAT NO OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WERE

INVOLVED. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH TITO YESTERDAY AND HAD HAD A DIFFICULT TIME CONVINCING HIM OF THE WISDOM OF A POSTPONEMENT. I AM INCLINED TO TAKE GLIGOROV'S EXPLANATION AT FACE VALUE; NOTWITHSTANDING RECENT PRESSURE FOR A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, I DOUBT THAT UNCERTAINTY ON THAT SCORE PLAYED A ROLE.

4. GLIGOROV AND I AGREED THAT WE SHOULD QUICKLY PLAN FOR A RESCHEDULED VISIT. I THEREFORE WOULD HOPE THAT WE CAN OBTAIN A PROPOSAL FOR NEW DATES SOON. I REALIZE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE TO BREAK NEWS OF THE POSTPONEMENT TO HOUSE PERSONNEL INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY TO SPEAKER O'NEILL. IN THIS REGARD, IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP PLEASE LET ME KNOW. I WILL BE GLAD TO WRITE LETTERS (OR WHATEVER) IF THIS WOULD HELP TAKE THE STING OUT OF THE GLIGOROV DECISION. EAGLEBURGER

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